



## DIVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Health Services  
Disease Prevention  
Family Health  
Health Promotion  
State Epidemiologist

TO: School Nurses and Health and Physical Education Teachers  
FROM: SD Departments of Health and Education  
DATE: August 22, 2008  
RE: School Height and Weight Data Collection and Equipment Distribution

Dear School Nurses and Health and Physical Education Teachers:

In an effort to address the obesity epidemic in South Dakota, the Department of Health (DOH) along with the Department of Education (DOE) will partner with schools to collect current height and weight data on school age children. In addition, we have resources to assist with data collection and obesity prevention promotion activities. Please consider working with us to address this issue.

**School Height and Weight Data:** This school year marks our 11<sup>th</sup> year collecting heights and weights of children 5-18 years of age. The voluntary program has been underway since 1998 as an effort to track childhood obesity in South Dakota. It serves as a basis to develop state and local strategies and is a way for participating schools to quantify the problem of childhood obesity.

To save school staff time, heights and weights can be entered on the Infinite Campus system. We strongly encourage you to use this convenient method as it saves both school and state agency staff time. If you do not have access to this data collection system, please contact your **Infinite Campus** administrator or principal to receive permissions to enter data and extract reports. Easy to follow instructions for using the Infinite Campus system can be found at: <http://doh.sd.gov/SchoolWeight/>. This web site also has instructions for taking accurate measurements and for maintaining confidentiality as well as a list of considerations for schools that choose to send data to parents.

If your school does not use Infinite Campus for other school records, please submit the height and weight data in an **Excel** spreadsheet following the instructions on the web site listed above. The above Web site also has a Word file if other options do not work.

Data for the 2008-2009 school year will be accepted at any time during this school year but must be submitted no later than June 12, 2009, for inclusion in analysis. Enclosed is a copy of the summary brochure for the 2006-2007 school year.

**Free Measuring Equipment:** The DOH is again accepting applications for equipment (wall-mounted measuring board and balance beam scale) if needed for your school to participate in the School Height and Weight project. We have a **limited** supply of equipment.

A short application form is included with this letter. Applications are due by September 26 2008, either by regular mail or electronic mail.

If you have questions about the school data or the measuring equipment, please contact Colleen Reinert at 605-773-6189 or [colleen.reinert@state.sd.us](mailto:colleen.reinert@state.sd.us). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kristin Biskeborn, MPH, RD, LN  
DOH State Nutritionist

Kari Senger  
DOE CSHP Director

Colleen Reinert  
DOH CSHP Director

cc: Superintendents  
Building Principals  
DOH Office of Data, Statistics, & Vital Records

